

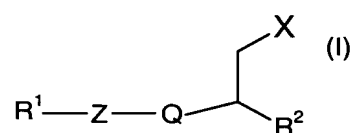
Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

~~R¹ represents is~~ optionally substituted -C₄₋₁₂ alkyl, -C₂₋₁₀alkylcycloalkyl, ~~-C₂₋₆ alkyl heterocycloalkyl~~ ~~-C₂₋₆alkylheterocycloalkyl~~, -C₂₋₆alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl except with the proviso that R² is not pyridinyl;

Z ~~represents is~~ a bond, CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, OCR⁴R⁵[[,]] or CR⁴R⁵O[[,]]_i or Z, R¹ and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q ~~represents is~~ an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X ~~represents is~~ COR³;

R² ~~represents is~~ CONH₂, CO₂H, CO₂R⁷, SO₂R⁷ or SO₂NR⁸R⁹ except with the proviso that R² may is not represents CO₂R⁷ _i when X is CONH₂ ;

R³ ~~represents is~~ OR⁶[[,]] or NR⁸R⁹;

R⁴ and R⁵ each independently ~~represents is~~ H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;

R⁶ ~~represents is~~ H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R⁷ ~~represents is~~ C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

R⁸ and R⁹ each independently ~~represents is~~ H or C₁₋₆ alkyl_i or R⁸ and R⁹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; and or

physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the exception of proviso that formula (I) compounds are not:

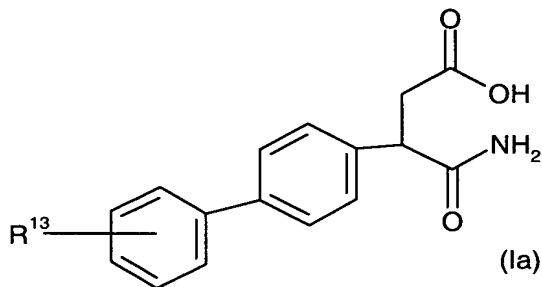
[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;

butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or

butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

with the proviso that when R¹ ~~represents~~ is C₄₋₁₂-alkyl ~~C₄₋₁₂alkyl~~, Z is other than a bond, O or CH₂, ~~and~~ or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

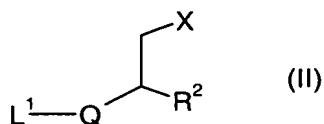
2. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X ~~represents~~ is CO₂H and R² represents CONH₂.
3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein Q ~~represents~~ is an unsubstituted phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein Z represents a bond or O.
5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ of formula (Ia):



wherein R¹³ ~~represents~~ is H, halo, CF₃, -OCF₃, cyano, nitro, OR¹⁴, SR¹⁵ or COR¹⁶; and
R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ independently ~~represents~~ are H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;
~~and~~ or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

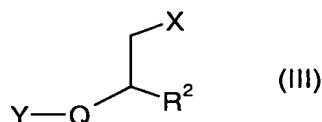
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from or susceptible to an inflammatory disease or an autoimmune disorder which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~.
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor, ~~and optionally one or more other therapeutic agents.~~
10. (Currently Amended) [[a]] A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises:
- (A) for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein Z ~~represents~~ is a bond and R¹ ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L¹ ~~represents~~ is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹, ~~such as a compound R¹B(OH)₂~~;

- (B) (i) ~~preparation of compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z ~~represents~~, is O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴[[,]] or OCR⁴R⁵, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y ~~represents~~ is OH, SH, NHR⁴[[,]] or HO CR⁴R⁵, with a compound of formula (IV):



- wherein R¹ is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L² represents a leaving group; and
- (ii) where Y is -SH optionally followed by oxidation to the corresponding SO or SO₂ as required; or

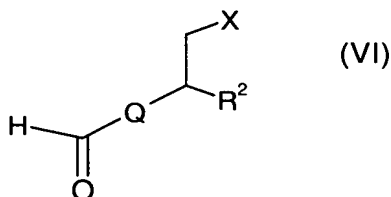
(C) ~~preparing compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z is $-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5\text{O}-$ by ~~reaction of~~ reacting a compound of formula (III) wherein Y is $-\text{OH}$ with a compound of formula (V):



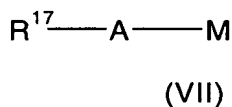
wherein R^1 , R^4 , R^5 are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^3 represents a leaving group; or

(D) ~~preparing compounds for preparing a compound~~ of formula (I) wherein Z is CH_2 and R^1 ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl by reacting

(i) a compound of formula ~~(VII)~~ (VI):



wherein Q, X and R^2 are as defined above with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, ~~for example, which is a~~ compound of formula (VII)[[:]]:



wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, R^{17} is H or one or more substituents, ~~which have been described earlier in the specification,~~ and M is a metal, ~~for example, Mg, Li or MgLi;~~ and

(ii) reduction and elimination of the resultant alcohol ~~or; and, if necessary,~~

(E) deprotection of a protected form of compounds of formula (I).